

the SIGHT CENTER

A Service of the Toledo Society for the Blind

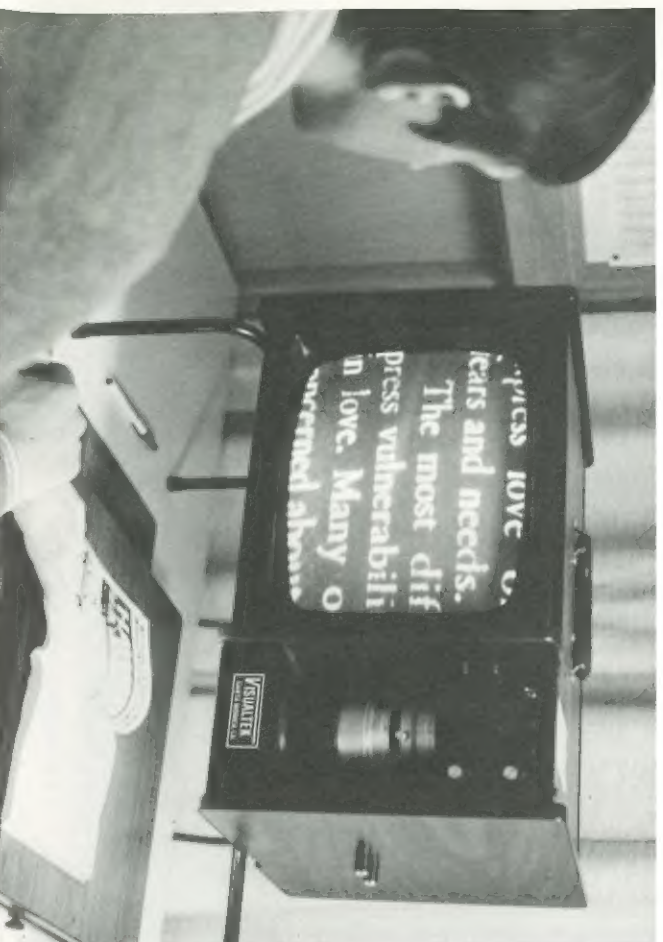
1819 Canton Street
Toledo, Ohio 43624
419 / 241-1183



★ Designates membership in United Way

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With a closed-circuit television that can magnify print characters up to 60 times normal size, low-vision readers are able to read ordinary print.

18-month Study

Retinal Damage Main Local Cause of New Blindness

Retinal degeneration in its various forms is the leading cause of new blindness among Sight Center clients, a study of 485 cases over the past 18 months shows.

There were 119 persons, or nearly 25 per cent of the caseload, so afflicted.

The category includes persons blind from degeneration of the macula, retinal detachment, choreoretinitis, histioplasmosis, etc.

The study also revealed — unexpectedly — that congenital blindness, with 99 cases, is the second leading cause, constituting about 20 percent.

"This is due to the fact that the Sight Center serves more children than other, similar agencies," Vicki Obee, coordinator of social services, said.

"We sometimes become involved with sight-handicapped infants soon after birth, when the problem is diagnosed, and continue with them into adulthood."

"It is our philosophy that the earlier a child learns such skills as mobility, concept development, and other skills associated with rehabilitation teaching, the better adjustment that child will make over a lifetime."

Included in the congenital category was blindness from retrolental fibroplasia,

congenital syphilis, congenital glaucoma, congenital cataracts, choreoretinitis, underdeveloped optic nerve and from viruses.

Not unexpectedly, diabetic retinopathy, with 60 cases, or about 12 per cent of the caseload, was the next leading category, followed by chronic glaucoma and optic nerve damage, with 44 cases each, or nine per cent each.

Other causes in order of their frequency were:

Senile cataracts, 36, or seven per cent; Hereditary conditions showing up later in life (principally retinitis pigmentosa), 30 cases, or six per cent;

Trauma, corneal damage, and blindness from stroke, with nine cases each, accounted for almost six per cent of the cases studied.

There were also 26 cases in which the cause of blindness was not known.

Clients studied ranged from one year to 96 years.

There were 74 in the 0-25 age group; 79 in the 26-50 group; 123 in the 51-75 group; and 94 who were 76 years or older.

The racial breakdown showed 401 white persons; 79 who were black, and five of Hispanic descent.

Low Vision: Dim Area in Public's Perception

Between the extremes of normal sight and total blindness is a poorly-understood group of sight-handicapped people whose number is growing.

Although blind in the legal and practical sense, they have *some* sight ranging from virtually none, to quite a bit.

Many do not "look" blind, nor "behave" blind; to a public long accustomed to equating blindness with total darkness, they seem not to qualify. Yet, their blindness is real, and so are the problems they must deal with.

These are the people with low vision.

They make up fully 80 per cent of the blind population.

They may or may not use a white cane for travel.

They may or may not use special, compound telescopic lenses to augment their poor sight.

Their eye condition may be of congenital origin, or it may be a recent development.

Their sight could be stable, with no prospect of improvement nor likelihood of further deterioration, or they may be losing what sight they have.

Sometimes — as in senile cataract — sight loss can be reversed.

They are present in all age groups, all races, all social levels, these low-vision

people.

At times, their most frustrating problem is not sight loss itself but refusal of family, friends and the world at large to acknowledge their blindness.

"I fool a lot of people," a former Sight Center client who is blind from macular degeneration remarked. "I don't look blind."

Store clerks, bus drivers, police officers and others who encounter low-vision blind tend to see people whose appearance and behavior identify them as having normal sight.

Sometimes, their own family members reject the truth of their blindness on psychological grounds.

A significant portion of low-vision blind are in the 60-and-up age group; as that section of the population grows in size, blindness associated with aging inevitably increases.

Fortunately, help in the form of rehabilitation training, and a host of aids and appliances that promote adaptive living skills, is available.

Self-help groups, such as the Sight Center's Phone-A-Friend program, provide down-to-earth practical support that as well as the psychological support that comes from discussing common problems.



Many other aids and appliances are available to those with diminished sight, such as the compound lens affixed to the glasses of the reader at left. He has increased the magnifying power with a handheld glass. Good lighting is important.

Braille Sports Rallyists Hit the Trail

Veteran rallyist Mike Puffenberger of Fostoria, guided by blind navigator Debbie Preble of Bowling Green, cruised to victory in the 1985 Braille Sports Car Rally here March 16.

Driving a '78 Datsun, they finished well ahead of Kay Soltesz, Oregon, who drove, and Scott Parker, of Toledo, her blind navigator.

Third place went to driver John Cockie, Fostoria, and his blind navigator, Jim Allen of Toledo.

The rally was the ninth such sponsored by the Sight Center and the Northwest Ohio Sports Car Clubs of America.

The time-speed-distance contest began and ended in the Sight Center parking lot. In between, drivers and their blind navigators covered a 50-mile route through Lucas and Wood counties, with monitors along the way assessing points for each 100th of a minute the teams were off schedule.

The Puffenberger/Preble duo finished with a mere 34 — meaning that they were only 34/100 of one minute from running a perfect race.

"Mike Puffenberger has his own personal computer inside his head," commented Rallymaster Paul Fizer, of Toledo.

When he's not driving sports cars, Mike Puffenberger is a senior analyst in the analytical laboratory of Union Carbide Corp.'s Fostoria plant.

Debbie Preble, blind since birth from retrolental fibroplasia, operates the snack bar on the top floor of the Wood County

Office Building in Bowling Green.

The second-place team of Kay Soltesz and Scott Parker, in a 1980 Mazda, finished with 196 points.

A bare two points back at 198 were Cockie and Allen in a 1985 Ford Ranger, the only truck in the rally.

Others who took part, in the order of finish with drivers first and blind navigators second, were:

Mary Raden and Blaine Casebolt, both of Toledo, in an '81 Dodge Colt, 258 points.

Debbie Sheidler, Holland, O., and Julie Sypucinski, Toledo, in an '83 Dodge Colt, 433 points;

Charles Tucker and Jim Snyder, both of Toledo, in an '84 Buick Skylark, 440 points;

Mike Stasiak and Ann Hess, both Toledo, driving a '78 Omni, 469 points.

Alan Sheidler, Holland, O., and Pat Wise, Pemberville, O., in an '81 Mustang, 503 points;

Liz Stasiak, Toledo, and Dawn Christensen, Holland, in an '85 Alliance, 606 points;

David Stoeckel, Napoleon, O., and Debbie Sierra, Temperance, Mich., in an '80 Ford Fiesta, 633 points;

Joyce Wietrecki and Chris Stearns, both Toledo, in an '80 Oldsmobile, 729 points.

Checkpoint workers, besides Paul Fizer, were Jon Puffenberger, Fostoria, Kevin Woeller, Toledo, and John Soltesz, Oregon. Volunteers who assisted at the Sight Center were Barbara Benlein and Norma Sierra.

1985 Champs



The winners were all smiles when the points had been counted. Debbie Preble, right, and Mike Puffenberger, center, happily accepted their first-place trophy from Rallymaster Paul Fizer, who apparently found it hilarious, too.



Charles Tucker, left, was the first to reach Checkpoint One on a rural road in Wood County. Paul Fizer clocked him and navigator Scott Parker in and out.



Driver John Cockie and navigator Jim Allen, above, were ready when they got the signal to move out.

Madge Levinson, left, Norma Sierra, center, and Barb Benlein had hot food waiting for the driving teams and monitors when the contest ended.





The Sign Post

Executive director **Barry A. McEwen** has been appointed to the editorial advisory board of the American Foundation for the Blind's *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, the AFB's official monthly publication, and the primary professional journal in this field.

Former Toledoan **Paul Prescott**, blind from retinitis pigmentosa and cataracts, underwent successful cataract surgery last year that has provided him with 20/60 vision in both eyes despite the remaining RP problem.

Mr. Prescott, who makes his home in Clearwater, Fla., was a computer programmer for First Federal before moving south. Restoration of his sight to normal required him to return his Seeing-Eye dog, Smokey — a difficult thing to do, he reported.

Gayle Krause, former director of program services for the Sight Center, has been appointed state-wide training coordinator with the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Columbus.

Henry G. Nelson, a Sight Center volunteer reader and driver since 1970, delivered a series of lectures on the quality control of corrugated containers at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 15-17, as he has done each spring since that program's inception in 1968. The Waterville resident, a recognized expert in this field, retired in 1971 as quality manager of the Forest Products Division of Owens-Illinois Corp. after 40 years service with the firm.

By presidential proclamation, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1985, will be observed as National White Cane Day.

Johnny Bocanegra, a Sight Center client since 1971, began a 10-week internship April 1 as a counselor with the Toledo office of the Economic Opportunity Planning Association.

He expects to receive an associate degree in social work from the University of Toledo's Community and Technical College next October.

Jacob Poer, the Sight Center's client advocate/paralegal representative, was elected trustee chairman of BOOST (Building On Our Strength Together), a Toledo-area support group for persons with emotional or mental disabilities, in December.

Mistaken Notions Resist Change

Year in and out, certain misconceptions concerning blindness, blind people, and the Sight Center seem to persist in the public mind. Some of the more stubborn ones are listed below, with a brief explanation in most cases.

- The Sight Center is an arm of government (Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired) or of some other, larger entity (American Foundation for the Blind) or is associated with Lions International.
The answer in every case is "false." The Sight Center is a private non-profit corporation serving a 23-county area in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. It gratefully acknowledges the generous support given by Lions Clubs and others over its 61-year history, but it is an independent organization.
- The Sight Center receives financial support in the form of taxes from the City of Toledo, or Lucas County, or the State of Ohio, or the Federal government, etc.
False, in every case. The Center is, however, reimbursed at a fixed hourly rate for clients of the BSV who are referred to us for orientation and mobility instruction, and/or rehabilitation teaching.
- A person must be legally blind to receive services from the Sight Center.
False. The Center serves anyone who has a visual impairment which prevents that person from functioning normally. It also serves people who have no known visual impairments, as in its prevention of blindness programs.
- The Sight Center is closed.
False, obviously. The misunderstanding may be based on the fact that the Center, last Jan. 1, leased the operation of its sheltered workshop to the Zepf Community Mental Health Center which operates it as Merit Industries. Blind workers continue to be employed there.
- The Sight Center is the organization that calls you frequently on the telephone attempting to sell household items made by the blind.
False. The Sight Center does not make and sell brooms or anything else. Some of our blind clients do display items made by them in their homes in the Center's sales room, but no telephone sales or marketing effort is made by personnel from this agency. Blind Products of Toledo, 1959 Princeton Dr., 385-1841, which sells blind-made items at retail, may be the organization you are thinking of.
- Blind people see nothing.
Mainly false. Depending on the nature and extent of their handicap, some blind people see a wee bit, some quite a bit, and some not at all. Even some of those who are totally blind "see" something quite different than the solid blackness so often, and mistakenly, associated with blindness.
- Blind people do not have dreams.
False, of course. Why shouldn't they have dreams?
- All blind people read braille.
Again, false. Not all blind people wish to read braille. Not all need to. Not all are able to learn braille. Nationally, there are approximately 16,500 blind braille readers.
- All Sight Center staff members who work with blind clients read and write braille.
False. The Center has staff members who can read, write and teach braille, but it is not necessary that every staff person have that skill.

Water Safety



Adaptive water safety for blind children is one of many skills taught in the Sight Center's adaptive living program. On this day, children's worker Pamela Croson was teaching Tim Robbins, 5, of Fremont, adaptive water safety at the Red Cross indoor pool in Toledo. Tim and seven other sight-handicapped youngsters from kindergarten through grade three took part in the classes for six weeks. Cost of using the Red Cross pool was underwritten by the Telephone Pioneers of America.

- Blind people have sharper senses of hearing, smell, taste and touch (but especially hearing) than sighted people.
False, of course. But they may rely more heavily on those senses for information than sighted people do.
- One must shout when conversing with blind persons, since they are all hard of hearing. (We won't dignify this one, or the one below, with an explanation.)
- One must keep the discussion simple when talking with blind people, since they have inferior intellects. (What? You didn't know about this notion?)
- Diabetics cannot learn braille, due to reduced sensitivity in their fingertips.
Answer: some can; some can't. All other factors being equal, braille is certainly more difficult for a diabetic to learn than a non-diabetic, but much depends on the extent of the student's neuropathy, and personal motivation to learn.
- Rehabilitation personnel working with blind clients must know sign language. (Yes, there are people who believe this — although we are unable to figure out why.)
- It's a good idea to show your friendliness toward a blind person and his guide dog by talking to the dog, and petting it. (Such people usually mean well, but they could not be more wrong.)
- Blind pedestrians want help crossing busy streets, or going up and down stairs, or through revolving doors, etc.
The answer, in most cases, is a resounding "No!" The blind traveller will let you know when help is needed.

Findlay to Host 1985 U.S. Blind Chess Tournament

For the third consecutive year, Findlay, Ohio, will be the site of the U.S. Blind Chess Championship Tournament.

The tournament, scheduled for July 26-28 in the Imperial House, will be sponsored by Ohio District 13-A Lions Clubs, the Findlay Lioness Club, and the Findlay Chess Club. Dick McStraw, spokesman for the Findlay Lions Club, said.

As in the past, tournament play will consist of five-round Swiss match play, starting with a single game Friday evening, July 26, followed by three games Saturday and the finale on Sunday.

Any blind or legally blind chess player is eligible to compete, providing the player is a member of the U.S. Chess Federation, or becomes a member by tournament time, according to Robert Willford, Findlay Chess Club president.

The sponsoring organizations will pay the cost of two nights' lodging (double room) in the Imperial House for each player and sighted companion, Mr. McStraw said, and will provide buffet-style meals for players in the ballroom throughout the tournament.

Volunteers Honored for Vital Contributions

45 Years



The plaque in Thomas Day's hand bears a likeness of the molded glass artwork, at left, that serves as the symbol of the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award. The artwork, crafted by artist Dominick LaBino, is kept on permanent display at the Sight Center.

Tom Day Is John Goerlich Award Choice

Thomas R. Day began his volunteer work on behalf of the blind as a teenager.

At 59, he's still at it, strong as ever, especially as "Mr. Transportation" to thousands of sight-handicapped persons.

He was unable to accept the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award in person, having undergone wrist surgery that day in Toledo Hospital.

The award was created a year ago to honor those who have performed outstanding, consistent service to the blind. Mr. Goerlich was the first recipient.

Tom Day became acquainted with blind people as a 14-year-old freshman at Scott High School in 1940, when a teacher suggested that he, and other students, meet blind people socially.

He responded by coming to Thursday night dances in the former headquarters of the Toledo Society for the Blind, 718 Michigan St., to dance with blind women.

At 25, he joined the Toledo (Host) Lions Club, where he soon was personally supervising transportation arrangements for blind persons attending the annual Lions Christmas Party, Family Night dinners, and meetings of the former Progressive Club.

He has also arranged transportation for more blind people, on an individual basis, over that time span than he can remember.

He served as president of the Toledo (Host) Lions Club in 1957. He has been a member of the Sight Center's board of trustees since 1955, and has been its vice-president since 1979.

He was the recipient in 1981 of the prestigious A. B. Snyder Award from the Lions Club, also in recognition of dedicated service to the blind community.

There were 446 of them in 1984. Collectively, they donated 12,776 hours of their time and skills to the blind community in an astonishing variety of tasks.

These contributions are indispensable to the functioning of the Sight Center, guests at the Volunteer Awards Luncheon April 10 were reminded by executive director Barry McEwen.

Nearly 100 volunteers and staff members gathered in the auditorium, where certificates of appreciation were awarded all volunteers following lunch.

Appropriately, lunch was prepared by volunteers — members of the Toledo Central Lionsess Club.

Highlights included the honoring of Thomas R. Day as recipient of the John Goerlich Distinguished Service Award, and Jacob Poer as top volunteer of 1984 with more than 500 hours.

For the first time, lapel pins indicating hours served were also awarded.

Mr. Poer, the Center's paralegal client advocate, began last year as an unpaid volunteer, representing in an administrative capacity blind claimants experiencing difficulty in having their claims for various government funds processed.

His position was partially funded in May through a foundation grant, and he now maintains an office part-time in the Sight Center.

Those receiving special recognition for more than 400 hours were Nancy Brock, Nancy Burton, John Hirsch, and Robert Mauk.

Those with 300 or more hours were Carol Landis, Virginia Lewandowski, and Marian Purnia.

With over 200 were Ethel Lewis, Frank Liminger, Agnes Rasik, and Joe Thibault.

With 100 or more were Larry Barnes, Ala Baucorn, Leonard Burns, Don Burwell, Toni Clark, Lori Danzik, Helen Rose Dunlap;

Carol Fegel, Doris Huether, Karen Jackson, Rita Kash, Martha Loescher, Bea Miller, Fred Miller, Doris McCarthy, Henry Nelson;

Phyllis Nichols, Ed Nowak, Jr., Marjorie Owings, Sue Perkins, Frank Siska, Anne Smith,

Jackie Sobocki, Edith Tilton, and Bill Van Orman.

Young Hunters Brave Cold, Snow to Find Chirping Eggs

The calendar said spring, but it was more like winter when blind children gathered March 30 at Friendship Park in North Toledo for the 1985 Chirping Easter Egg Hunt.

But the egg hunters, who came suitably dressed, weren't intimidated by the east wind whistling off Maumee Bay as they scoured their hunting ground to cash in beeping, whirring, clicking, chirping eggs for candy and other prizes.

When it was all over, Walter Lucas, 11, a fourth-grader at Elmhurst School, Toledo,



emerged as this year's champ with 85 eggs to his credit.

Just in time, too, as a snow squall blew in from the bay.

As in the past, the outing was made possible by the Future Pioneers section of the Telephone Pioneers of America, who equipped the large, plastic eggs with sound-making devices the blind hunters could home in on.

The Pioneers also provided the prizes and the hot lunch served in the shelter house.



Sarah Cook appeared to be getting some coaching from her mother, Mrs. Kathy Cook, on where to find more chirping eggs. In reality, Mrs. Cook was simply holding the eggs Sarah had already collected. Her German Shepherd guide dog observed the hunt closely.

Volunteer scorekeeper Carol Sarns needed her heavy, hooded jacket as she sat at the picnic table tallying each chirping egg as it came in. The interested onlooker's identity isn't known.

Most Hours



An original painting by blind artist Mary Swartz, of Fremont, OH, adorns the wall behind Jacob Poer's office desk. It was awarded to him as 1984's Volunteer of the Year.

Paralegal Rep Wins 19 of 20 Cases

Administrative judgments totalling more than \$152,000 were awarded last year to visually-handicapped claimants represented by Jacob Poer, in actions against government funding sources.

Only one of the 20 claimants represented by him in 1984 was denied, and that case was subsequently re-filed and the claim approved.

The free client service was instituted a year ago as part of client advocacy grants from the Waite-Brand Foundation and the Clement O. Miniger Foundation.

While he cannot practice law, Mr. Poer is qualified to take part in administrative proceedings involving claims for funds from Medicare, Medicaid, Old Age Social Security Disability Insurance, Public Employees Retirement System (Ohio), Supplemental Security Income, Veterans' Administration, Federal food stamps, and others.

Cy Reardon Named East Side's 1984 Volunteer of Year

Cyrl J. Reardon, Eastmoreland Drive, Oregon, was named 1984 Volunteer of the Year by the East Side Neighborhood Club for his work in the "Feed Your Neighbor" program.

The program is sponsored by the Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Churches, which collects funds from member churches to make bulk purchases of food for needy families.

Mr. Reardon, who is legally blind, has been an active participant in the Sight Center's Phone-A-Friend program since its inception.

Adaptive Skills Enable Blind Musician to Read, Play, Teach

Deteriorating sight has brought many changes to Rosemary Pfaff's lifestyle.

But it hasn't stopped this Delta, Ohio, resident from pursuing her lifelong interest in music.

Miss Pfaff, a vigorous, artistic 65, is legally blind from a combination of diabetic retinopathy and cataracts.

The trouble began about two years ago, she said, when new glasses no longer enabled her to see well.

But the retinopathy has stabilized, thanks to treatment that included Laser therapy to seal off the tiny blood vessels that were hemorrhaging and filling the vitreous in her eyes with blood.

Last October, she underwent successful surgical removal of the cataract in her right eye at Medical College of Ohio, Toledo. Surgery for removal of the left cataract on Dec. 20 failed, however.

Despite the setback, she has resumed practicing piano and organ, using some greatly-enlarged sheet music provided by her rehabilitation teacher, Ron Pompei, who worked with her for several months on a variety of adaptive living skills.

Routine tasks such as threading a needle, or pouring a cup of hot tea, are baffling and frustrating to those who cannot see, Miss Pfaff said.

But she now performs those tasks, and others, with relative ease.

Miss Pfaff, who began her music studies at age four under her mother's tutelage, is a graduate of the Sherwood Conservatory of Music, Chicago. She also studied music at Bach Conservatory of Music,

Toledo, and at the University of Wisconsin.

She was assistant professor of music for the Sherwood Conservatory for eight years.

For the past three years, she has been pianist at the Trail Chapel Christian Church, Delta, and organist there for a year and a half.

When her sight problems became severe, however, she was unable to read new music, which forced her to play the same pieces over and over from memory.

"I could tell that the congregation was weary of hearing the same things week after week, but they didn't complain," she said.

On a Sunday last December, she surprised and pleased the congregation by playing three new hymns, "Does Jesus Care?", "Make Me a Blessing," and "Cross of My Heart", using the magnified sheet music Mr. Pompei provided.

She also reported, with obvious pleasure, in a letter last March that she is doing quite well threading needles, using the needle-threading device he suggested, and that a new magnifying glass has enabled her to resumerreading her own mail and newspapers after many months of having to depend on others to do it for her.

She has also recently taken on a student pianist, her first in many years.

The student, a 16-year-old girl, is blind. "She had been turned down by other piano teachers because of her blindness, but after three months of study, she is doing quite well," Miss Pfaff said.

Agency Touched More Than 27,000 Lives during 1984

The Sight Center provided services to more than 27,000 persons in calendar 1984.

Included were 547 who received a total of 2,849 hours of face-to-face instruction in orientation and mobility, rehabilitation, and social services.

There were also 2,483 persons using Talking Book machines or cassette tape players on indefinite loan, and 1,851 persons receiving *Goin's On*, the monthly newsletter.

But the bulk of those served were in the Center's blindness prevention program, where 13,455 children and 7,294 adults underwent eye screenings.

The children included 11,268 in grades one, three and five of the Toledo School District, plus 2,187 in Toledo's Headstart program.

Among children, 1,498 or more than 10 percent were referred to their private eye doctors for investigation of possible eye disorders.

Two hundred eighteen adults were referred to private eye care specialists for investigation of possible glaucoma.



"It was cold in Moscow but warm in Baku," Brennan Johnson told executive director Barry McEwen, pointing out the spots on the globe his tour of Russia with other area students took him to.

Russia, he said, is an immensely rich country in terms of its untapped mineral resources, but decidedly backwards in many ways.

"I'd like to go back someday and see more of it," he added. "China, too. But when I do, I'd rather travel alone."

To Fill the Cup



Floating an ordinary fishing bobber in hot liquid enables Rosemary Pfaff to fill her cup without risking a burn. The bobber is attached to a piece of fishing line, with a sinker at the other end. When it reaches the cup's rim, she feels it with her finger, stops pouring, and pulls the bobber out by the line. Observing is rehabilitation teacher Ron Pompei.



Sheet music enlarged 600 per cent enables Rosemary Pfaff to play new music again.

Languge Student Finds Soviet Union Slow, Backward Place

America was a welcome sight to 17-year-old Brennan Johnson when he returned here in January from a 10-day tour of Soviet Russia.

Brennan, a Devilbiss High School student who has been a Sight Center client for several years, was among eight local Russian-language students who left from Detroit Dec. 27.

The group spent its first five days in Leningrad, moved on to Baku for two days, and concluded with a three-day visit to Moscow.

Financial arrangements for his tour were coordinated by the Sight Center, with a cash donation from the Toledo Central Lions Club, supplemented by a large cash contribution from an anonymous donor, making his trip possible.

His clearest impression of life in the Communist country?

"It's a backward place, slow," he said. "You have to stand in line to do anything — buy food, travel, anything."

The group stayed in a modern Leningrad motel, the Puskovaya (built by Finns, according to Brennan).

While the room he shared with another Devilbiss student was comfortable enough, the hotel food was terrible, he added.

"We ate fish almost every day in Leningrad," he said. "Once, the menu said we were having sausage, but it was mainly fat."

Tour arrangements were made by a Washington, D.C. travel agency specializing in trips to Europe and Russia.

Mrs. Marian Walters, who teaches Russian at Devilbiss and who accompanied the Toledo group, said the students' reaction was the same as in a trip she made three years ago.

"All of them came back strong, patriotic Americans, too," she said.

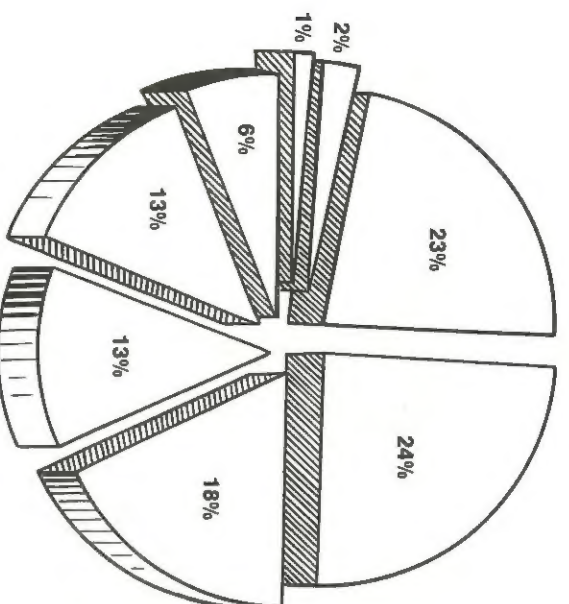
The Soviet state, she added, has nothing resembling the network of social and health-care agencies available to handicapped persons in the United States.

Brennan came away favorably impressed with Russian citizens, whom he found friendly, and with Russian architecture — especially the churches.

1984 Annual Report

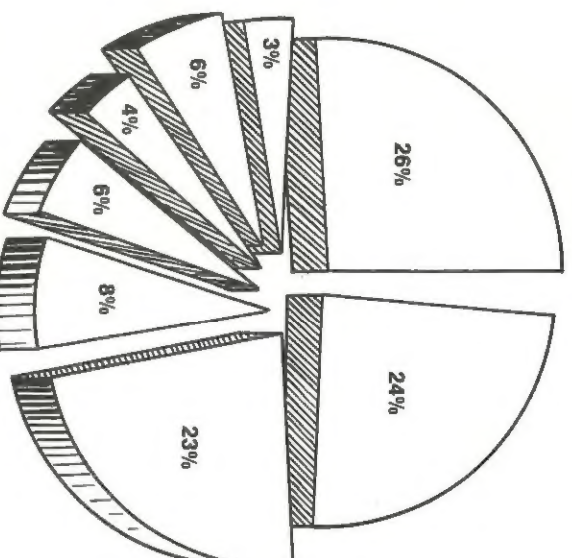
The Toledo Society for the Blind

INCOME



United Way	24%
Sheltered Workshop	23%
Public Support	23%
Investments	18%
Bequests	13%
Service Fees, Gov't Grants	6%
Christmas Card Sales	1%
Miscellaneous	2%

EXPENSE



Sheltered Workshop	26%
General & Administrative	24%
Rehabilitation	23%
Sight Conservation	8%
Fund Raising	6%
Aids & Appliances	4%
Public Relations	3%
Volunteers	3%

SERVICES RENDERED

New referrals to social services	1984	1983
Clients receiving counselling	362	387
Clients receiving rehabilitation teaching	117	54
Clients receiving orientation/mobility training	292	185
Talking Books in persons' homes	138	129
Sheltered workshop employees	2,483	2,408
Pre-school vision screenings	39	35
School-age vision screenings	2,187	2,182
Glaucoma screenings	11,268	13,877
Served at Community Medical Eye Clinic	7,294	5,503
Served by Community Eye Clinic Opticians	376	382
Other sight conservation services	294	246
Reading assignments performed	269	185
	262	255

Approximate number of persons served..... 27,381 25,828

(Totals must be approximate due to overlapping in services rendered to individual clients, i.e.: many given mobility lessons also received rehabilitation teaching, counselling, etc.)

Statements of Support, Revenue and Expenses
Years ended December 31, 1984 and 1983

	1984	1983
Support and revenue:		
Public contributions.....	86,266	71,109
Bequests	104,385	75,528
Donated services	52,545	48,278
Memorials	3,267	3,797
Greater Toledo Community Chest	180,600	172,000
United Way of Henry County	6,000	5,400
Service Fees, Gov't Grants	48,438	44,741
Sheltered Workshop Sales	180,737	232,265
Investment income	18,966	21,273
Oil royalty income	41,340	45,930
Rental income	38,358	30,953
Christmas card program, net of related costs	3,932	4,508
Other	12,508	7,807
Total support and revenue	\$777,342	\$763,589
Expenses:		
Program services:		
Aids and appliances	34,020	30,451
Rehabilitation	198,241	178,360
Sight conservation	71,405	46,537
Sheltered workshop	217,498	257,841
Supporting services:		
Fund raising	49,791	49,995
Public relations	46,089	33,419
Volunteers	25,284	24,473
General and administrative	203,800	215,353
Total expenses	\$846,128	\$836,429
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses	(\$68,786)	(\$72,840)

The above information is a summary of the operations of the Toledo Society for the Blind taken from the Society's audited financial statements for each of the years in the two-year period ended Dec. 31, 1984.

Such information does not include balance sheets, statements of changes in fund balances, or notes to financial statements necessary for presentation of financial information in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The audited financial statements are available at the Society's offices.

WHERE WE SERVED



The county-by-county distribution of Sight Center services for 1984 is shown here, with comparative figures for 1983 in parentheses. Totals include persons participating in the Talking Book program, those screened in the Prevention of Blindness program, and those who received direct services: orientation and mobility instruction, rehabilitation teaching, and social services.

Talking Book services in Monroe and Lenawee Counties, Michigan, are provided by a Michigan agency. The Sight Center is a member of the United Way only in those counties where a star is shown.

Director's Report: Driver-Exam Law to Increase Caseload

The Sight Center warmly supports the new Ohio law that requires drivers applying for license renewal to undergo vision screening, even though it will come as a shock to some — an unexpected hardship, even — to learn that they can no longer drive with an unrestricted license.

Many will find that they are authorized to drive only during daylight hours. Others will find that their vision, unless it can be corrected, is so poor that they cannot drive at all.

We believe that this change in the law will make our highways and streets safer for everyone. Unhappily, many people will find that their major form of mobility is denied to them. For those living in urban areas, there will be greater demand for public transportation; cities will need to upgrade their services to meet this demand.

Those living in more rural areas will find their mobility severely limited; they will be dependent on family members and friends for transportation to the doctor's office, grocery store, employment, church, etc.

While we have experienced no major increase thus far, the Sight Center anticipates a rise in client referrals from individuals who learn that they have a more serious eye condition than they knew. The Sight Center has the services to help those persons adapt to their vision loss, but increased demand for those services is certain to create problems.

Obviously, we cannot give these citizens magic glasses or return their sight to a state where they can drive again. We can, however, assist them with other independent living skills, be that learning to use their existing vision to their best advantage, regaining confidence in the kitchen or other household areas, resuming hobbies or crafts that they may have given up because of decreased sight or, overall, in restoring their self-confidence.

At the outset, we will likely need more volunteers to serve as drivers for people who are suddenly unable to drive themselves. We will need your continued support in more traditional ways, as well, to serve these individuals while continuing to serve those who come to us through long-established referral routes.

Blindness is increasing rapidly. Your continued support is needed and appreciated.

Barry A. McEwen
Executive Director



Personnel Changes Reflect Emphasis on Rehabilitation

A rehabilitation teacher, children's worker, and a maintenance person have been added to the Sight Center roster, while two other staff people have left since Dec. 31.

Pamela Kay Crosen, formerly with the Ohio State School for the Blind, Columbus, and the Anthony Wayne School District in Lucas County, was engaged as part-time rehabilitation teacher/children's worker in January.

She holds a master of arts degree in her specialty from Ohio State University, where she also was awarded her bachelor's degree.

Bonnie Pounds, who served an internship here last summer, joined the staff April 1 as full-time rehabilitation teacher. She is a graduate of Cleveland State University.

Fred Miller, an agency volunteer for two years, was employed as part-time maintenance man in February. He had retired in 1982 after 34 years in the

VDT Users Beware

Video display terminal users should be aware that VDT's give off heat which can raise room temperature and lower humidity levels.

This is of special importance to contact lens wearers, as it causes dehydration of the tear film.

Former Client Among 4 New Faces on Board of Trustees

Four persons have been added to the Sight Center's board of trustees since December. Another has rotated off, and one has died.

The new members are Richard C. Heymann, Jr., Mrs. Kathryn Franklin, Frank J. Bartell, Jr., and Bob Tilton.

Harry Kessler, who had served on the board since 1978, completed his term Dec. 31. Mrs. Margaret Wensel, a trustee since 1981, died Dec. 31.

Mr. Heymann, of East River Road, Perrysburg, is a lifelong Toledo area resident. He retired Jan. 31 after 43 years with Ohio Plate Glass Co., Toledo, where he held numerous executive positions, including those of board chairman, and president.

He is a member of the board of Trustees of Medical College of Ohio, and of COMPASS (Comprehensive Alcohol Ser vice Systems).

Mrs. Franklin, of Chatham Valley Road, Toledo, served 18 years as health coordi-

Margaret A. Wensel

Margaret A. Wensel, who became a client of the Sight Center at its birth in the early 1920's and who had served on its board of directors since 1981, died Dec. 31 in the Holly Glen Care Center, Toledo. She was 70.

Mrs. Wensel, a Toledo native, was a former Ohio state vocational rehabilitation counsellor and instructor in braille.

At her retirement in 1974, she estimated that she had taught more than 3,000 persons in 26 counties, and had traveled more than 260,000 miles in the performance of her job.

She lost her sight to glaucoma as a young girl, but refused to let that loss hold her back from a career in rehabilitation.

She was a 1932 graduate of Libbey High School, later earning a bachelor of philosophy degree from the University of Toledo, and a bachelor's degree in science and education from Ohio State University.

Homer Jackson

Homer L. Jackson, active in the National Federation of the Blind for many years, died April 10 in Riverside Hospital, Toledo, following a five-week illness. He was 67.

Despite losing his sight as a small child, he became an active bowler, often travelling to other cities to take part in bowling tournaments. He continued bowling until shortly before he was hospitalized.

Mr. Jackson was employed 15 years as custodian at the Lucas County Courthouse. He was formerly employed at the Toledo Humane Society.

He was a member of the Toledo Central Lions Club.

Surviving are his wife, Flora Odessa, and daughter, Mrs. Estelle Simmons.

Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo.

nator of Toledo's Headstart program. She holds a master's degree in social work from Ohio State University.

Mr. Bartell, of Burwell Drive, Toledo, has made a career in public relations and advertising counselling since returning from service as a naval officer in the South Pacific during World War II.

He is a graduate of the University of Toledo, and a member of the board of trustees of Sunshine Children's Home.

Bob Tilton, of West Bancroft Street, Ottawa Hills, is a former Sight Center client. Since 1981, the Upper Sandusky native has headed Bob Tilton & Associates, Inc., a movie management and consulting firm that operates theaters in Toledo, Fremont, and Mansfield.

He is a member of the Motion Pictures Pioneers Association.

The board voted at its January meeting to increase its membership to 21. The recent changes leave it with 18 members.

Margaret A. Wensel

She was the widow of James Wensel.

Mrs. Wensel was active in many organizations for the blind or handicapped. She had served as secretary, treasurer, vice-president and president of the St. Lucy Society for the Visually Handicapped, which she helped found.

She was also a member of Pi Lambda Theta Sorority, the Alumni Association of the University of Toledo, the TAGRA Problem Management Group for the Elderly and Handicapped, and Gesu Church.

She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Anna Langenderfer, and brother, Leonard Langenderfer, both of Toledo. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Toledo.

THE TOLEDO SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

The Sight Center Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Toledo Society for the Blind, a United Way member agency in Lucas, Wood, Ottawa and Henry Counties, Ohio.

Materials contained herein may be reprinted providing credit is given.

Chairman of the Board . . . John Goerlich
President . . . William A. Marti
Vice President . . . Thomas R. Day
Treasurer . . . Gerald V. Hazel
Secretary . . . Louis M. Zava
Executive Director . . . Barry A. McEwen
Editor . . . John A. Rohen
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Telephone Pioneers Donate New Carpet, Move Furniture



"Put it right there," Loretta Turner suggested as Telephone Pioneers Dave Gritmanza, rear, and Dave Whipple, lowered a display case into position.

Comfortable, attractive carpeting now covers the 26-by-25 foot floor of the Sight Center's aids and appliances section, thanks to the Telephone Pioneers of America.

The Pioneers donated \$400 last fall to purchase and install the indoor-outdoor carpet.

Installation was done by workmen from the Big Country Floor & Wallcovering Outlet, but it was the Pioneers who moved furniture out beforehand, so the job could proceed, and back in when it was finished.

"Having carpeting to walk on made a big difference during the cold winter months," Loretta Turner, head of the aids and appliances section, said.

The Pioneers are made up of active and retired employees of Bell Telephone Co., American Telephone and Telegraph Co., and Western Electric Co. Nationally, they have about a half-million members.

The local group — the Toledo Council of the Ohio Valley Chapter, TPA — has well over 1,000 members.

Their retired members repair Talking Book machines and cassette tape players here.

Others craft the headsets used by blind persons attending the Shrine Circus each year, and implant chirping devices in the large, plastic eggs for the blind children's Easter egg hunt.

They also implant audible signals in softball used at the Sight Center's summer camp, and in horseshoe pegs so that blind players can home in on the sound.

The Telephone Pioneers have also sponsored a blind Toledo youth in the International Sports Jamboree for Handicapped at Parkersburg, W. Va., the last two years.

Memorial Contributions

A permanent record is made of memorial contributions and other gifts to the Sight Center. Memorials are promptly acknowledged in accordance with the wishes of the contributor. The following is a list of memorials, gifts in honor of others, and bequests received by the Sight Center from Sept. 1, 1984, through March 31, 1985.

- Lois Ames, by Leah M. Walker.
 William R. Bates, by Mrs. G. Bates.
 Eleanor Bobel, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Fred Bruschhaber, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs. Willis Ryan; Mrs. Norma A. Young.
 Ruth Burks, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burks.
 Frank R. Busch, by Myrtle Busch.
 Mrs. Edna Coates, by Mary F. McPartland.
 Julia Corrado, by Al and Wanda McEwen.
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Cubbon, by Frank W. Cubbon, Jr.
 Benjamin Dagostino, by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton E. Reed.
 Richard J. Delaney, by John and Joan Rohen.
 Thomas Fournier, by Helen S. Huebner.
 Nicholas Feudi, by Father Murphy.
 Dr. Norris Gillette, by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schweitzer; Mrs. Frances Kincaid; Vicki and Chuck Lehman.
 Lola Gonja, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Dolores Gowen, by Mary Frances Klein.
 Ralph Gueldenzaph, by Shirley Judy and Family.
 Ronald Hanley, Jr., by John and Joan Rohen.
 Jean Hartung, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 James Hawk, by Frank and Helen Dillon.
 John J. Hayes, by Mrs. Norman Souder.
 Maude Heffner, by Velma Maule.
 Vincent Heintschel, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Baird Hicks, by Mr. and Mrs. John Arvidson.
 Edgar Kaddens, by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Goldman.
 Dorothy Kern, by Clayton E. Reed.
 Mrs. Jessie King, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lininger.
 Fred E. Kingsley, by Mrs. Fred E. Kingsley.
 Stella Korzec, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 George Kranz, by Renzo and Carolyn Maraldo.
 Robert Kurfess, by Mr. and Mrs. H. Richard Kraus.
 Sylvia Kusnecy, by Mary Frances and Arch Klein.
 Thomas L. LaFarree, by Erma S. LaFarree.
 Dr. Henry Lange, by Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Klein.
 William Lazenby, by former Sheriff Donald T. Hickey and Staff; Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Mrs. Hazel Lee, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lininger.
 Raymond Lewandowski, by Helen McCarty.
 Lois A. Henning; Nancy J. Brock; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lininger; Palma Wisniewski; Paul Noel; Alvin and Madge Levinson; Karen Jackson; John and Joan Rohen; Sarah and Bryan Lahna; The Kapp Hall Group; Ollie and Leona Mareja; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Super; Barry and Cathy McEwen; Ruth Fisher.
 Louis E. Long, by Northwest Ohio Practical Nurse's Training Center July 1985.
 John McGee, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Randy Meadows, by Rita Lessentin.
 Mrs. Alicia Mechl, by Mrs. Esther Meli Vanscoy.
 Helen Meier, by Mary Frances and Arch Klein.
 Bill Miller, by Fern E. Miller.
 Lorine Moore, by Nancy J. Brock.
 George H. Mumford, by Al and Wanda and Aunt Agnes McEwen; Barbara Fitzgerald; Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Leonard and Marie Meyers; Mrs. Pauline Heck; Douglas and Hilda Gilchrist; Ann M. Mumford; Fred Mumford; Elizabeth A. Morrison; Ruth L. Brower and Family; Roland Tams; Charles J. Kruehlich; T. J. Naughton; Glass Container Division, Machine Design Department of Owens-Illinois, Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Neiman, by Al and Wanda McEwen.
 Robert L. Noel, by Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Rasik; Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Thelma Norris, by Elva Arquette, and Arlene and Deane Truman.
 Thelma U. Norris, by J. Scott Norris.
 Ruth Pileger, by the Frankforter Family.
 Miss May Pike, by Mr. and Mrs. James Borton; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Neuenschwander and Brent Neuenschwander; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bates; Mr. and Mrs. Loman Radabaugh; Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Grimm; Miss Ida Belle Salisbury; Agnes Schult; Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Schroeder; Mrs. Olga King; Avis Pennington; Mr. and Mrs. Norris Andre; Mr. and Mrs. George Kress; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Phillips; Mr. and Mrs. Herb Garrow; Marjorie Kast and Family; Phillip Baus; Mrs. Kathryn Biddle; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Biddle; Friends and Neighbors.
 Seymour Plawsky, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 Dorothy Roberts, by Virginia R. Smith.
 Daniel Martin Rodriguez, by Phyllis A. Damschroder.
 Mary Sarnowski, by Kathryn E. Schlever.
 Leslie A. Sawelle, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lininger.
 Pearl Schladebach, by Loren A. Swartz.
 Louis E. Shirevar, by Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Lederman; Jeanette E. Hall; Harvey Perry.
 Karl Sitter, by John and Joan Rohen.
 Carlton Solon, by Betty H. Solon.
 Donald R. Steele, by Mrs. Donald R. Steele.
 Alfred Stuckey, by Clara and Jim Zehr; Bill, Jill, Katie, and Molly.
 Sidney Sussman, by Dan and Mary Camp; Josephine Jordan.
 Hazel Swain, by Glenda E. Ried.
 Mrs. Alma Taylor, by June W. Baker.
 Dr. Richard Tellefsen, by Barry and Cathy McEwen.
 John S. Urbanyi, by Daniel and Anna Wagner.
 Mike Vargo, by Daniel and Anna Wagner.
 Grace Vogelopol, by Barry and Cathy McEwen; Mrs. Paul Gade; Glendale Citizens Club.
 Margaret Wensel, by Dr. and Mrs. William Palmer; Marilyn M. Pryke; Leonard and Oma Langender; Barry and Cathy McEwen; Inez E. Bystone.
 Herbert E. Young, by Mary F. McPartland.
 Bertha Younkis, by Oddfellows Home of Ohio, Springfield, Ohio.
 AT & T Operators, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Judy Bauman, by Father Murphy.
 Friendship of Nancy Brock, by Lillian F. Blain.
 Jeff Callins, by Father Murphy.
 Jack Crawford, by Mrs. Jocenia Crawford.
 Valerie Dayton and Jennifer, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Archie and Norma Dyer, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Birthday of Suzanne Marie Ewing, by Father Murphy.
 Diane Fradd, by Father Murphy.
 Birthday of Stanley Friedman, by Maxine and Lewis Basch.
 Gladys Hibbert, by Lois Harbage.
 Birthday of Mrs. Jerome Jacobson, by Maxine and Lewis Basch.
 Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kaplin, by Maxine and Lewis Basch.
 Special birthday of Mrs. Arthur Klein, by Mervin and Alice Levy.
 Birthday of Mrs. Arthur Klein, by Helen and Bill Goodman.
 Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kobacker, by Maxine and Lewis Basch.
 Curt Lemay, Doris Lemay, and James Swartzlander, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Dennis and Janet Luginbuhl and Family, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 John and Carol Luginbuhl and Family, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Father Murphy, by Mrs. Judy Bauman (12/12/84).
 Father Murphy, by Mrs. Judy Bauman (2/15/85).
 Kathy Root and Family, with Christmas Wishes, by Father Murphy.
 Linda Schiffman, by Father Murphy.
 The Sight Center and The Cleveland Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, by Vera and Henry Schmidt.
 Birthday of Mrs. Mary Walston, by Mrs. Judy Bauman.
 Mary Young, by Father Murphy.

Osterman Gift to Provide Free Glasses to Needy

Optical equipment with a market value of more than \$120,000 was donated to the Sight Center in November by Osterman Jewelers.

Much of it will be used in the Eye Clinic the Center co-sponsors with St. Vincent Medical Center, and in providing free eyeglasses to needy persons.

Last year, more than 500 persons were served in the Center's eyeglass program and at Community Eye Clinic Opticians, Inc., at SYMC.

Osterman's, a 38-store chain with retail operations in eight states, has discontinued grinding prescription lenses and fitting frames, Sandy Henline, advertising coordinator for the firm, said.

Bequests

Gladys M. Drager Estate.
 Elizabeth Fink Estate.
 Alma M. Halm Estate.
 Daisy S. Hickok Estate.
 Hazel Zimmerman Estate.

Gifts In Honor of